

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. Summary of the Amendments

The application now contains 35 claims, numbered 2-16, 18-26 and 28-38.

Allowance of claims 2-16, 18-26 and 35-36 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 27 has been cancelled.

Claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the former base claim (former claim 27, now cancelled).

Claims 28 and 31-34 have been amended to change the claim dependency so as to depend from an allowable base claim.

B. Summary of Rejections and Reply

1) Rejection of claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 37 and respectfully submits that proper antecedent basis has been provided. It is believed that claim 37 is now in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 37.

2) Rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102


On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,556 (hereinafter referred to as Shiragaki). In view of the cancellation of claim 27 from the instant application, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection is moot.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-16, 18-26 and 28-38 are in allowable form. Favourable reconsideration is requested. Early allowance of the Application is earnestly solicited.

If the application is not considered to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, the Applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03 so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,



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